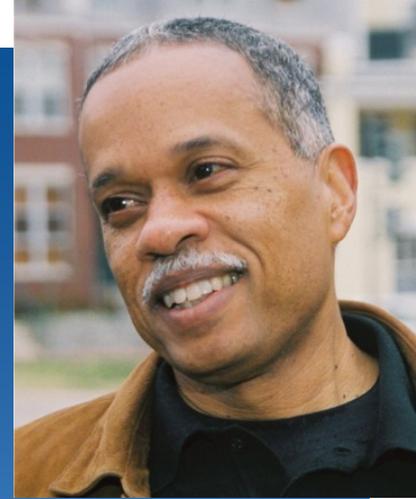


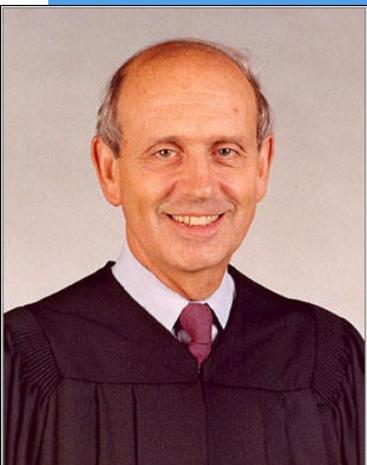


Mary Higgins Clark
Novelist
Philosophy Major

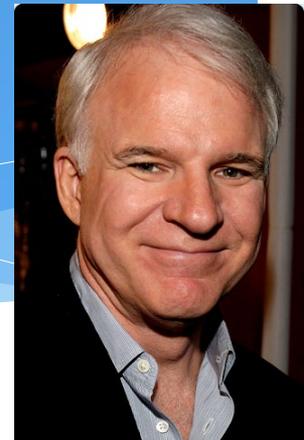


Juan Williams
Journalist
Philosophy Major

What is Philosophy Good For? or: What to tell your Parents if You Want to Major or Minor in Philosophy!



Stephen Breyer
Supreme Court Justice
Philosophy Major



Steve Martin
Comedian/ Actor
Philosophy Student

Philosophy is “Marketable”

Skills Desired by Many Employers and Careers

- * Analyzing ideas and arguments
- * Writing and communicating clearly and persuasively
- * Critical thinking and ethical reasoning
- * Learning new knowledge and skills: flexibility
- * Generating new ideas: creativity
- * Understanding other people’s ideas and perspectives
- * Carrying out complex research and organizing ideas

Skills Philosophy Teaches

- * Analyzing ideas and arguments
- * Writing and communicating clearly and persuasively
- * Critical thinking and ethical reasoning
- * Learning new knowledge and skills: flexibility
- * Generating new ideas: creativity
- * Understanding other people’s ideas and perspectives
- * Carrying out complex research and organizing ideas

Careers for Philosophy Majors

- * Law (law schools love phil majors)
- * Business (management, sales, advertising, finance, human resources, consulting)
- * Computer programming, Artificial Intelligence, Software, Information Technology
- * Writing, Editing, Journalism
- * Non-profits, Community service, Ministry, Ethics
- * Government, Public Policy, Think Tanks
- * Sciences, Medicine, Healthcare (best with double major)
- * Teaching, Art, Design (best with double major)
- * Preparation for Graduate Schools (for any of the above)



Carly Fiorina
Former CEO of HP
Philosophy Major

George Soros
Investor
Philosophy Major



DO PHILOSOPHY MAJORS MAKE ANY MONEY?

Annual Salaries and Salary Growth by Undergraduate Major

Source: "Salary Increase by Major," *Wall Street Journal* (http://www.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/info-Degrees_that_Pay_you_Back-sort.html)

Annual Salary

Median salary of mid-career graduates without higher degrees

Data collected in 2008

Economics	\$98,600
Engineering	\$93,600
Mathematics	\$92,400
Philosophy	\$81,200
Chemistry	\$79,900
Political Science	\$78,200
Business	\$72,100
History	\$71,000
Biology	\$64,800
English Literature	\$64,700
Art History	\$61,900
Psychology	\$60,400
Sociology	\$58,200

Salary Growth

Increase from starting to mid-career median salary of graduates without higher degrees

Data collected in 2008

Philosophy	103.5%
Mathematics	103.5%
Economics	96.8%
Political Science	91.7%
Chemistry	87.6%
Art History	81.3%
History	81.1%
English Literature	70.3%
Engineering	69.1%
Psychology	68.2%
Business	67.7%
Biology	67%
Sociology	59.5%

Philosophy Majors = Best Test Scores

- * **LSAT** (for law)
 - * Better scores than all other majors (tied with Econ)
 - * Symbolic Logic (Phil 2500) may improve LSAT scores
- * **GMAT** (for business schools)
 - * Better than any other humanities major
- * **GRE** (for graduate school in sciences or humanities)
 - * Better *verbal* scores than any major
 - * Better *writing* scores than any major
 - * Better *quantitative* scores than any humanities major

Mean LSAT and GMAT Scores by Intended Undergraduate Major

Sources: Michael Nieswiadomy, "LSAT Scores of Economics Majors," *Journal of Economic Education* 41, no. 3 (Summer 2010): 331-3

Graduate Management Admission Council, "Profile of GMAT Candidates" (<http://www.gmac.com/market-intelligence-and-research/research-library/gmat-test-taker-data.aspx>)

Law School Admission Test

Required by U.S. Law Schools

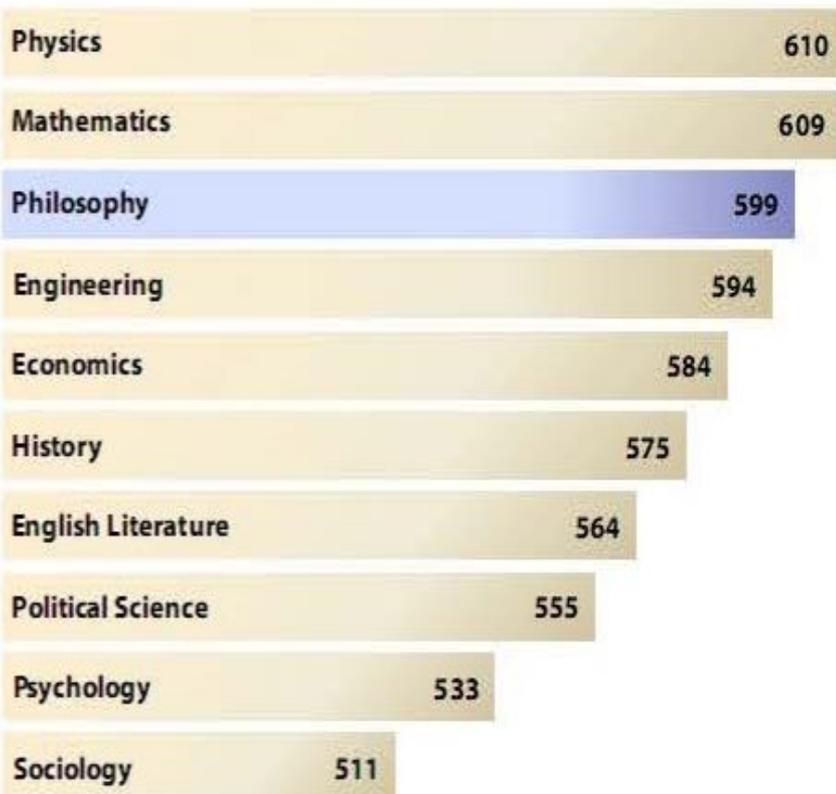
2007-2008 Tests; Scores range from 120-180



Graduate Management Admission Test

Required by U.S. Business Schools

2010-2011 Tests; Scores range from 200-800



Mean GRE Scores By Intended Graduate Field, 2011–2012

Source: Educational Testing Service, "GRE Guide to the Use of Scores" (http://www.ets.org/s/gre/pdf/gre_guide_table4.pdf)

Charts by Ty Fagan
and Matty Silverstein

Verbal

Scores range from 130–170

Philosophy	160
English Literature	157
Art History	156
History	156
Physics	156
Political Science	156
Economics	154
Mathematics	154
Biology	153
Chemistry	153
Sociology	152
Engineering	150
Computers	149

Quantitative

Scores range from 130–170

Mathematics	161
Physics	161
Economics	159
Engineering	159
Computers	158
Chemistry	157
Biology	153
Philosophy	153
Political Science	151
Art History	149
English Literature	148
History	148
Sociology	148

Analytical Writing

Scores range from 0–6

Philosophy	4.4
English Literature	4.3
Art History	4.2
History	4.2
Political Science	4.2
Economics	4.0
Physics	4.0
Sociology	4.0
Biology	3.9
Chemistry	3.9
Mathematics	3.9
Engineering	3.6
Computers	3.4



And don't forget...



- * College is not *just* about helping you get a better job
- * It's also about helping you lead a better life, making you a well-rounded person
- * Philosophical questions are interesting, often fun, and always important:
 - * How should I lead my life?
 - * What is a just society?
 - * What (and whom) should I believe?
 - * When are we morally responsible?



Arian Foster (NFL player), **Susan Sontag** (Writer/activist), **Wes Anderson** (Filmmaker), and **Stephen Colbert** (Comedian), live better lives because they studied philosophy, right?

Philosophy at Georgia State has a lot to offer you



- * Upper-level courses are taught by the Department's Professors and Lecturers, experts in their various areas of research
 - * One of the nation's top-ranked Masters programs in philosophy
- * **Small classes** (typically 15-35) geared towards developing your communication skills and learning to think and write well
- * **Philosophy Major & Pre-law Major** (10 courses);
- * **Philosophy Minor & Minor in Law and Ethics** (5 courses)
- * **Interdisciplinary**—an ideal combination with other majors or minors
- * An active undergraduate club, ***The Philosophers' Guild***

What to do next if you are considering Philosophy?

- * If you haven't taken **Phil 2010 Introduction to Philosophy**, or **Phil 2030 Introduction to Ethics**, take one next semester! Both courses satisfy an Area C requirement.
- * If you've taken Phil 2010 or 2030, take **Philosophy 3000: Introductory Seminar in Philosophy** next semester. You'll learn how to write better papers!
- * Talk with your philosophy teacher, meet with a philosophy advisor (**Marsha Brouard** in UAC or **Eric Wilson** in Phil Dept)
- * Check out <http://philosophy.gsu.edu>
 - * Including the "Why Philosophy?" page and
 - * Majors in Their Own Words

... Philosophy Majors in their Own Words

- * “Philosophy taught me how to think and react in the real world. It taught me to analyze situations and arguments logically and creatively, and how to take a position on a situation and support it.”

-Madison Olson (BA in Philosophy 2013, now in HR at company in NYC)



- * “My finance major helped get my resume on people's desks, but in interviews people wanted to talk more about my philosophy degree. I have yet to meet an employer who doesn't value logic, creativity, and critical thinking, so I would strongly urge anyone studying Philosophy to enter the job market ready to display these assets to potential employers.”

- Jeremy Dollar (BA in Philosophy 2011, now Senior Director of Sales Engineering at Experian Health)



What to do next to use Philosophy for your career?

- * Do well in your classes! A **high GPA** in philosophy sends a clear signal to employers that you are hard-working, intelligent, and a quick learner
- * Work with professors (and employers) who can be listed as **references**
- * Try to find an **Internship** (see Christie Hartley to sign up for Phil 4960)
- * Make use of **Career Services** for advisement, internship workshops, job fairs, CV prep, etc.: <http://career.gsu.edu/>
- * Prepare a **statement of goals** (make some goals!) and **CV / resume**
- * **Network** with other students (and alumni) who are finding jobs
- * Consider **second majors or minors** necessary or useful for your career goals (e.g., education, sciences, language, economics, etc.)
- * or what graduate school you will need for your goals...

What to do next to use Philosophy for graduate programs or professional schools?

- * Do well in your classes! A **high GPA** is necessary for many graduate programs
- * Prepare for the relevant **graduate exams** (LSAT, GRE, MCAT, GMAT, etc.)—e.g., online courses, practice tests, take Logic
- * Work with professors who can write your **letters of reference** (e.g., 2 for law school application)
- * Talk now with these professors about your goals
- * **Network** with other students (and alumni) who are applying to or attending relevant programs
- * Prepare a **statement of interest** and a **CV**
- * Consider what **second majors or minors** might be necessary or useful for your graduate program (e.g., sciences, education, business, etc.)

Web links

[Major in a minute video](#)

* <https://youtu.be/V85h3HcPt8Y>

More on what to do with a philosophy major:

<https://philosophyisagreatmajor.com/>

<https://sites.google.com/site/whystudyphilosophy/>

http://www.apaonline.org/?page=undergrad_resources